

REMARKS

Reconsideration and Allowance are Respectfully Requested

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the remarks that follow.

Further to the Amendment filed May 9, 2003, Applicant has amended the application. Claims 1-60, 64, 65, 68 and 72 have been canceled. Claims 61 and 62 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Further in response to the outstanding Office action of March 17, 2003, Applicant has further amended the application to more clearly define the invention. For all the reasons outlined in the first amendment, the cited prior art does not read on the applicant's claimed invention. The Applicant's invention is a never before seen and innovative combination of a classic muscle-backed and modern cavity-backed iron delivering a unique combination of feel and forgiveness in a single iron head structure.

As is well known and already discussed in this application, muscle-backed blade type irons provide solid feel and workability but little forgiveness when the ball strikes the face outside the small sweet spot. Cavity-backed irons have reduced feel and workability but provide a larger sweet and greater forgiveness. There has been a movement in recent years to provide both feel and forgiveness in a single head design. In fact, the first example was this inventor's iron patent, cited by the Examiner, having a cavity only in the upper unused portion of the iron head and concentrating the mass behind the hitting area to provide both feel and forgiveness. This did increase feel as well as provide increased forgiveness, but only marginally. This design was, and still is, being used by the

better low handicap golfers, offering only a slight improvement in playability and forgiveness. Conventional wisdom in iron design states that if you want to create feel you need more mass behind the hitting area, and to simultaneously create forgiveness it is necessary to reduce the mass in the inner area (creating a perimeter weight structure) on the unused area of the club head, the upper one-third portion.

Developed with the feedback from PGA Tour professionals (the best players in the world) as well as high handicap golfers, the present invention is 180 degrees from that logic. The present invention leaves mass where conventional wisdom says that it is not needed, behind the upper one-third portion of the iron head and removes mass behind where conventional wisdom says it is needed, behind the hitting area. **This unorthodox and seemingly backward approach has accomplished what no other iron design has been able to achieve ... *true solid blade feel and workability but the same forgiveness and stability of a conventional perimeter weighted cavity-backed iron.***

By keeping the cavity efficiently located behind the entire lower two-third portion of the iron the vibration created at impact is captured and transferred to the ball and the golfer's hands instead of dispersed up and out of the upper toe portion of the iron head, as with irons with cavities that run the upper perimeter. In terms of iron technology, this new "muscle-cavity" design is as innovative and significant to the evolution of the iron as perimeter weighting was to improving the playability of the early muscle-backed blade designs.

A golf ball when hit spends less than one-hundredth of a second on the clubface. Said a different way the ball spends less than a second on the clubface during an entire round of golf. The performance of a golf club is dependant upon very subtle forces of weight distribution. For

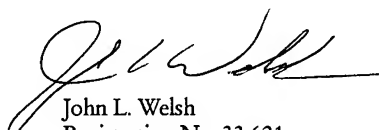
example, the addition of two grams of weight (half the weight of a plastic sandwich bag) at the toe of a driver can cause the face (moving at 100 mph) to remain open at impact, sending the golf ball away from the intended target line. The point being made here is that small changes can have big effects. The velocity of a club head being swung greatly intensifies the laws of physics.

It may seem obvious to the Examiner that this iron is just another perimeter weighted iron among many, but this reversed cavity / blade configuration is as different to iron design in both appearance and performance as moving the engine from the front to the rear to improve the performance of race cars.

Therefore, for the reasons outlined above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and a notice of allowance thereafter. Early notification thereof is earnestly solicited.

If it is felt that an interview would expedite prosecution of this application, please do not hesitate to contact Applicant's representative at the below number.

Respectfully submitted,



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